

The Ramsay Way

Ramsay Health Care Corporate Newsletter



Ramsay
Health Care

Ramsay Health Care announces new initiative to support Indigenous student nurses in WA

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student nurses in Western Australia will be supported through their Diploma of Nursing studies and beyond in a new initiative by Ramsay Health Care.



As part of Ramsay's national Undergraduate Cadetship Program, the successful student nurses will be provided with all their clinical nursing placement requirements at Ramsay hospitals.

Ramsay's Chief Nurse and Clinical Services Director, Dr Bernadette Eather, said the Undergraduate Cadetship Program helps develop leading nurses and midwives of the future.

"The program will support our student nurses in obtaining their qualifications, through providing them with valuable hands-on clinical experience, support and supervision," Dr Eather said.

"The student nurses will also have the opportunity to be employed in a Ramsay facility as an assistant in nursing, midwifery, personal care assistants or in a support service role."

"They will also have a guaranteed graduate interview for ongoing employment in our Ramsay Graduate Program when they finish their studies."

"On completion of their cadetship, students will have the opportunity to apply for the Ramsay Graduate Program where they choose to develop in a range of areas, including operating suites, maternity, mental health, cardiac services and rehabilitation," she said.

With the assistance from Ausmed, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders student nurses will receive access to over 1,200 educational resources on the Ausmed app, and assistance with travel expenses to and from hospital. In addition, Ramsay will be supporting the cadets with equipment needed for their role as nurses, along with the support of eNurse.

Indigenous student nurses will be placed at Joondalup Health Campus (JHC) with Marr Mooditj TAFE. Cadets will also be recruited for Hollywood Private Hospital,

Glengarry Private Hospital and Attadale Rehabilitation Hospital.

JHC Aboriginal Liaison Coordinator, Katy Raftery, understands and values the benefits the cadets will bring to patients' health and wellbeing, both clinically and culturally, including the opportunity to increase the Aboriginal workforce and strengthen culturally responsive practice.

Chief Executive Officer, Dr Amanda Ling, said it was important to provide diversity, equality and inclusion in the workforce.

"A diverse workplace improves productivity, innovation and customer service," Dr Ling said. "This aligns with our goal to provide the best possible health outcomes for our patients."

The Ramsay Undergraduate Cadetship Program is part of the Ramsay Nursing and Midwifery Academy. The aim of the Academy is to provide a comprehensive professional pathway for nurses and midwives, to develop and mentor nurses and midwives to upskill and excel in their careers." ■■

New Northern Private Hospital reaches major milestone

Ramsay Health Care's newest greenfield development, the Northern Private Hospital in Victoria, is on track to open in February 2024, after hitting a major construction milestone in January.

The hospital is now water tight – meaning the roof is on and the façade is complete.

Frances Perry House CEO, Shaune Gillespie, has recently been announced as the CEO of Northern Private Hospital.

"Now that we're water tight we can begin equipment installation in the next few months and begin to add the finishing touches," Mr Gillespie said.

"Then we begin the exciting job of finding the right team to join us and get ready to welcome patients." ■■





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the first edition of The Ramsay Way newsletter for 2023. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead and have lots of visits planned to our sites across Australia.

Paul Ramsay built our organisation around the principle of 'people caring for people' – so I am delighted to kick off a new program this year which honours his legacy. *The Ramsay Way Awards* are designed to celebrate the way our people bring our values to life every day. We are encouraging our people around Australia to nominate their deserving peers and judging will take place later this year.



Addressing ongoing global health care workforce shortages remains one of our highest priorities in 2023. We continue to focus on recruitment domestically and internationally, training Australia's future nursing and midwifery workforce, and growing our existing people through professional development initiatives such as leadership programs and nursing and midwifery mentorship and training opportunities. We have had some great success in the last few months and look forward to welcoming many new staff to Ramsay over the next few months, including our new graduates who started in February.

Being a values-based organisation means we are also keenly focused on sustainability. I'm pleased we have reached our ambitious goal of removing 50 million single-use plastic items from landfill by using environmentally friendly alternatives. And we're not stopping there; we have now set our sights on removing a total of 75 million plastic items by the end of 2023. This is one initiative of our Ramsay Cares sustainability program which also includes installing renewable energy systems such as solar power and reducing the use of harmful anaesthetic gas to create greener operating theatres.

On a personal note, in January 2023, I celebrated my 25th anniversary with Ramsay Health Care. It's been an amazing journey working for this Company - watching it grow nationally and internationally into one of the leading private health care operators in the world. When I started in 1998, Ramsay was 12 hospitals in Australia. Today, we are over 500 facilities across the world running an integrated healthcare business and delivering high quality outcomes for our patients. Despite this growth, I have been most proud that Ramsay has stayed true to the legacy of our founder and our culture of *people caring for people*.

I was fortunate to have known and worked closely with Paul Ramsay before his passing in 2014. He always said: "It's the people that matter" and it is. Not just the clinicians at the frontline but the hidden gems behind the scenes – our cleaners, caterers, storemen, administrators, IT teams and biomedical engineers. So many people who contribute to caring for patients.

From the moment I started with Ramsay, I knew there was something special about this Company. I count myself fortunate to have worked in an organisation where values matter, where we have a strong purpose, where we can speak up and contribute to innovation and change, and where we care for each other. I may not be here in another 25 years but I am glad to have been a small part in the history of one of Australia's great companies.

Warm regards,

Carmel Monaghan
Chief Executive Officer, Ramsay Health Care Australia

RAMSAY CARES



Ramsay Health Care saves 50 million plastic items from landfill

Ramsay Health Care has hit another milestone in its commitment to a healthier planet, reaching its goal of saving 50 million single use plastic items from landfill.

After swapping out 25 million single use plastic items for more environmentally friendly alternatives in the 18 months to January 2022, the private hospital operator committed to doubling that number by the end of the year.

Ramsay has now set its sights on removing a total of 75 million single use plastic items by the end of December 2023.

Ramsay Health Care Australia CEO, Carmel Monaghan, said she was extremely proud of the effort made by Ramsay teams around the country to ensure the lofty target was achieved.

"Ramsay Health Care is committed to making meaningful, tangible changes to improve the future of the planet," Ms Monaghan said.

"Our teams around the country worked hard to ensure we reached this incredible milestone, suggesting small changes that will make a big difference.

"We started with the basics – including crockery, straws and cutlery, and through suggestions from our people we're now operating with more sustainable anaesthetic and injection trays and utilising reusable medicine cups, as well as many other small, but significant substitutions.

Removing single use plastic items is part of the organisation's 'Ramsay Cares' sustainability strategy, which underpins the

company's long-term commitment to the wellbeing of its people, communities and the planet.

Another important initiative has been to replace single use plastic water bottles with jugs of water and glasses.

"This particular Ramsay project began in 2019 and saves an incredible 6 million plastic water bottles per year from ending up in landfill. This is in addition to the 50 million other plastic items," Ms Monaghan said.

Reducing carbons emissions is another priority, with 23 Ramsay sites so far installing solar panel systems, and more scheduled for 2023. To date, more than 2,660kw of solar panel systems are operating at Ramsay sites saving more than 61,000 tonnes of carbon emissions over their lifespan. That is the equivalent of removing 1,288 new cars off the road.

Additional carbon emissions are also being saved through the upgrade of more than 23,300 light fittings across 23 sites to energy efficient LED lights. The equivalent of removing an additional 1,960 new cars off the road.

Sixteen Ramsay Australia hospitals are working to create 'greener operating theatres' by removing the anaesthetic gas desflurane, reported to have more than 20 times the global warming potential of alternative gases and instead switching to more environmentally friendly options.

Ramsay sites are also currently taking part in PVC and aluminium recycling programs and are continually investigating other ways to improve their sustainability.

In 2022, Ramsay Health Care announced its global commitment to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions across its value chain by the year 2040. 🌱





Australian-first mental health facility opens for women impacted by trauma

For the first time, Australian women have access to dedicated, trauma-informed mental health care in a stand-alone facility with the official opening of Ramsay Clinic Thirroul in Wollongong, NSW.

The clinic, which began seeing patients in August 2022, was officially opened by The Honourable Bronnie Taylor – NSW Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health on 28 November 2022.

Sexual assault survivor Bianca, 28, was among the first cohort of in-patients to attend Ramsay Clinic Thirroul.

“I have complex-Post Traumatic Stress Disorder that led me to spending the last 10 years trying to get the correct help,” Bianca said.

“I was lucky enough to be one of the first few patients admitted in the first intake of women for PTSD phase 1 in Ramsay Clinic Thirroul. This PTSD phase 1 was so different to any other hospital. The entire approach was different and thorough in giving us the knowledge we needed. I finally understood why my brain worked the way it did because of my trauma.

“And with no men, I didn’t need to have my guard up and hide away every day or feel unsafe.”

Director of Ramsay Mental Health, Anne Mortimer, said the facility will offer a new alternative for women suffering from complex mental health concerns.

“I am extremely proud we have now officially opened this important facility, the first of its kind in Australia,” Ms Mortimer said.

“Twelve per cent of the Australian population, or more than 3 million people, will suffer from PTSD in their lifetime.

Unfortunately, two-thirds of these will be female.

“To date, there is a real shortage of women’s only mental health facilities in Australia. Ramsay Mental Health has been providing care for people affected by mental illness since 1964 and we understand that mental health challenges look different for everyone, especially trauma related mental health. We also understand that some women will heal best in a female-only environment.

“This is why Ramsay Health Care has established Ramsay Clinic Thirroul. Our team of mental health clinicians are experienced in the treatment of trauma disorders and will use a range of evidence-based programs to drive the best patient experiences and outcomes.

“Ramsay Clinic Thirroul will also help create the next generation of trauma informed mental health specialists. It will become a training centre for psychiatric, medical, psychological, allied health and nursing students to help build a workforce for the future that is trauma informed when managing complex mental health issues.”



Queensland-first service for teenagers affected by mental illness

More young Queenslanders needing mental health support now have access to private inpatient mental health services with Ramsay Clinic New Farm launching the State’s first dedicated, specialist mental health inpatient service for adolescents from just 14 years of age.

This is the first time patients under the age of 16 can access dedicated, private inpatient mental health services in Queensland.

Director of Youth Services at Ramsay Clinic New Farm, Professor James Scott, says the new service will improve functioning in young people living with mental illness.

“The most recent comprehensive study into adolescent mental health disorders found almost one in seven people aged four to 17 – or more than 560,000 Australian children – have a mental disorder. However, it is well-documented that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the prevalence of these conditions,” Professor Scott said.

“The new inpatient service at Ramsay Clinic New Farm will help adolescents acquire the skills to manage their mental health. Through group and individual therapy young people will develop skills in emotional self-regulation, distress tolerance and behavioural activation.

“The program will include family involvement and look at enhancing family relationships.

“It’s important for adolescents to remain connected to their education, so we will include in the program some time for them to do their schoolwork. One benefit of the pandemic is that these students are experienced in online learning, and we will have staff available to support their learning.

“The three-week inpatient program is followed by a day program to support patients as they transition back to their usual care. Where required, the adolescent program can also work alongside Ramsay Clinic New Farm’s existing offerings including a dedicated eating disorder program.”

Ramsay Clinic New Farm CEO, Ann Stevens, said the Clinic will provide purpose-built facilities to support the new program.

“Ramsay Health Care is committed to offering the best possible care for those needing assistance to manage their mental health,” Ms Stevens said.

“The new adolescent program will be located in a 12-bed inpatient unit completely separated from the adult population at the facility. We have established areas for group therapy, art therapy, family therapy and a gymnasium.”

Ramsay Health Care has been providing world-class standards of care for people affected by mental illness since 1964. It treats more than 70,000 mental health patients in Australia each year, and partners with 370 visiting psychiatrists.



Specialised addictions inpatient service opens at Ramsay Clinic Hollywood

A 30-bed specialised addictions inpatient service has opened at Ramsay Clinic Hollywood.



Patients are admitted to Nickoll Ward for a period of detoxification while engaging in therapy focussing on addictions recovery and harm minimisation.

Medical Director of Addictions, Dr Kavita Seth, works closely with vocationally registered GP, Dr Cathryn D’Cruz, who has a special interest in addictions medicine. A multidisciplinary team provides the specialised group therapy.

After discharge from Nickoll Ward, there are several different streams of day programs available to assist patients on their road to recovery.

Acting Deputy Director of Clinical Services, Caroline Dinnie, said the opening of Nickoll Ward further consolidates Ramsay Clinic Hollywood’s commitment to providing specialised programs addressing specific mental health concerns.

Tamara Private Hospital reaches mid-way point of major upgrade

Tamara Private Hospital has unveiled stage two of its four-stage, \$10 million upgrade, revealing a new state-of-the-art operating theatre, theatre staffroom and education area and new day surgery pre and post operating areas.



Residents from Tamworth and surrounding areas are now able to access the operating theatre, a Stryker iSuite, which features advanced technology and innovative surgical equipment.

Tamara Private Hospital CEO, Trish Thornberry, said the new iSuite brings the hospital's total operating theatres to four.

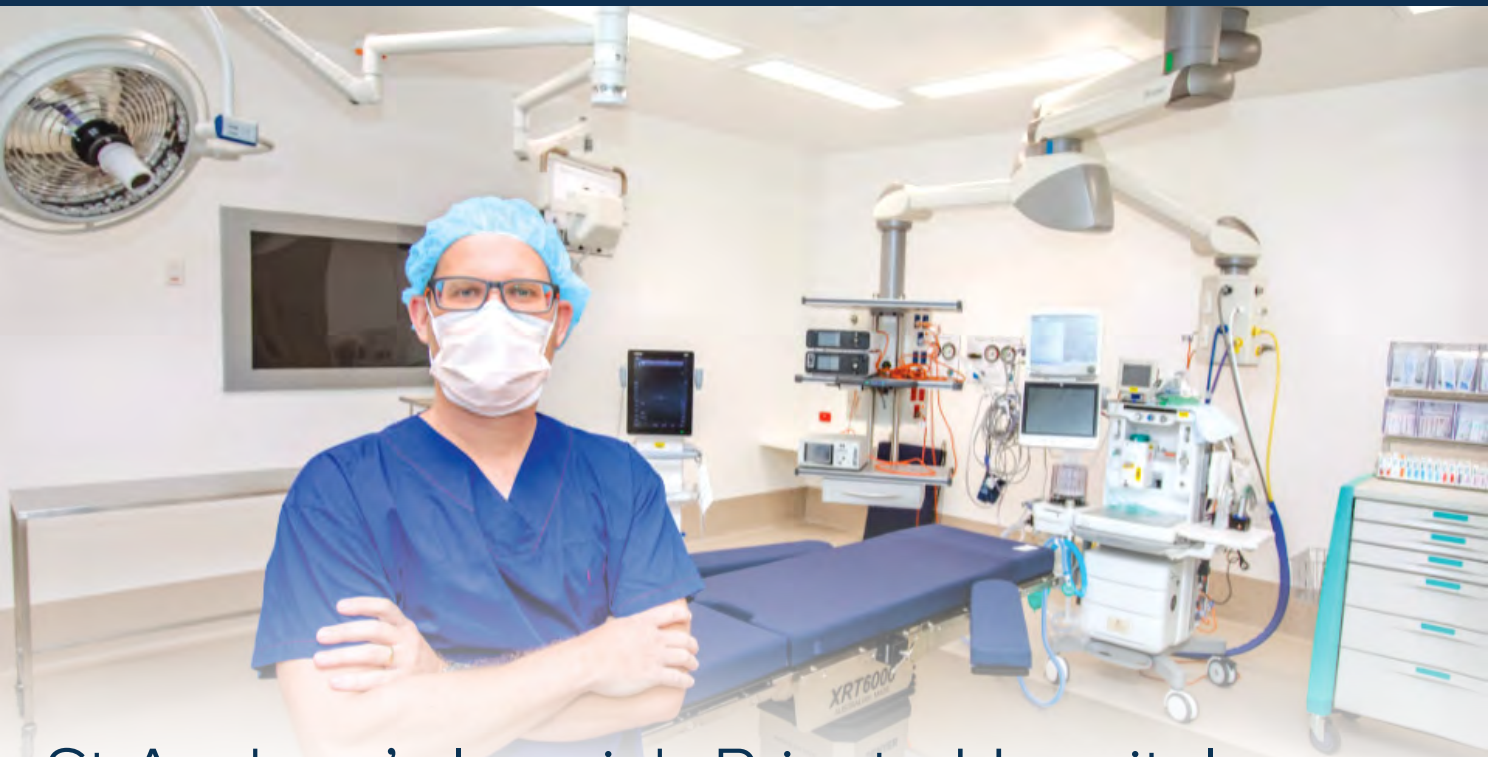
"I am pleased that we can now provide services using advanced technology and help even more patients to receive leading private health care close to home," Dr Thornberry said.

"The next phase will include a new reception area and new centralised sterilising area to accommodate our four operating theatres."

The final stage of the development, to be completed in May 2023, will include an advanced endoscopy unit for all colonoscopy and gastroscopy procedures which will complement the new theatre area.

"Tamara Private Hospital is committed to providing leading private health care for patients," Dr Thornberry said.

"These new facilities will allow us to continue to service the growing population of Tamworth."



St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital unveils two new state-of-the-art operating theatres

St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital has unveiled stage one of its \$44 million development, opening two new state-of-the-art operating theatres.

The two new Stryker iSuites take the total number of operating theatres at the hospital to ten.

St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital CEO, Michael Lewczuk, said the two new theatres will support the recent increase in demand for surgical and robotic cases at the hospital.

"I'm pleased to showcase our two new, state-of-the-art operating theatres which will allow us to perform even more surgical and robotics surgeries for the people of Ipswich," Mr Lewczuk said.

"The theatres will support an increase in neurosurgery cases and allow us to expand our robotics offerings into the specialties of Gynaecology and General Surgery as well as increasing capacity for the existing robotic Urology program.

"I thank Ramsay Health Care for its continued commitment to the people of Ipswich and investing in Suites and technology designed to improve patient experience and outcomes."

St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital's ten operating theatres are supported by a cardiac catheter lab and an 11th theatre shell which can be quickly converted to an operating theatre as needed.

The remaining stages of the \$44 million development at St Andrew's Ipswich Private Hospital include a new Comprehensive Cancer Centre, renal dialysis services, expanded radiology services and a new day rehabilitation program space purpose built for the needs of patients.

"This expansion is another step towards Ramsay Health Care being able to provide all the services the community of Ipswich needs, eliminating the need for patients to have to travel to Brisbane for health care," Mr Lewczuk said.

Warringal Private Hospital launches \$180 million redevelopment

A massive expansion of Warringal Private Hospital is underway which will see the site almost double in size and become a state-of-the-art, multi-tower, 290 bed facility.

Hospital CEO, Kieron Martin, said the redevelopment is the most significant expansion in the hospital's 43-year history.

"The development is challenging due to the need for the hospital to remain fully operational throughout construction," Mr Martin said.

"The team at Warringal is absolutely committed to providing patients and visitors with a seamless service and the highest standard of care throughout the entire development and the safest environment for our people and doctors."

Stage one of the three stage project is due to be complete in mid-2024.



Ramsay Surgical Centre opens in Coffs Harbour

More choice is on offer for patients in regional NSW with the opening of the new Ramsay Surgical Centre Coffs Harbour.

Under the management of the team from Baringa Private Hospital, Ramsay Surgical Centre Coffs Harbour offers a high quality alternative venue for patients undertaking day procedures such as endoscopy or minor eye surgeries.

Ramsay Surgical Centre Coffs Harbour CEO Jo Brown said the centre has undergone extensive renovations, using all local contractor trades for the project.

“Improvements include new comfortable and relaxing waiting areas, streamlined private admission and post procedure consult spaces, as well as new state of the art theatre equipment,” Ms Brown said.

“Right from the start, we were committed to using local trades as much as we could. We are very pleased that we have been able to do this for what turned out to be quite a significant project. We continue to partner with our local trades for all our day to day external maintenance needs across our facilities in Coffs Harbour.”



Port Macquarie Private Hospital to undergo major \$30 million expansion

Port Macquarie Private Hospital has announced a \$30 million expansion, with stage one including the development of a new operating theatre, on-site radiology services, new medical consulting suites, and an on-site pharmacy dispensary.

Port Macquarie Private Hospital CEO, Connie Porter, said the significant upgrade would allow the hospital to meet the needs of the growing local community.

“I’m excited to be expanding Port Macquarie Private Hospital to offer even more health care services for the community,” Ms Porter said.

“The master plan allows for significant construction in coming years including multiple new theatres, a higher acuity unit, and multiple new wards.

“Stage one includes the first new operating theatre, which will take us to a total of seven theatres and allow us to extend our existing surgical offerings. Patients can then stay in modern, comfortable accommodations with the upgrade of 12 of our patient rooms and bathrooms.

“Also as part of this stage we will be establishing on-site radiology and pharmacy dispensary services as well as offering medical consulting suites on-site for local specialists means our patients can access even more of their health care needs in one place.”

Stage one will also include development of a brand new centralised sterilising area to accommodate the growing facility and upgrades to building façade, reception, administration and café areas.

“Port Macquarie Private Hospital is dedicated to offering leading, private health care services for our local community and has been for more than 40 years. I thank Ramsay Health Care for this significant investment in the Port Macquarie region, we are excited to get the build underway,” Ms Porter said.

Development of stage one is due to be completed in early 2024.



Joondalup Health Campus opens new car park as part of \$256m expansion

An impressive four-storey car park has opened at Joondalup Health Campus as part of the hospital’s \$256.7 million expansion, which is co-funded by the WA and Australian Governments.

The new car park, which opened late last year and is located at the front of the campus, has been built to meet current and future demand for public parking and increases public and staff parking on the site to more than 2,700 bays – an increase of 540 bays.

Boasting the latest in parking technology, it is designed for a seamless user experience.

Ticketless entry is achieved through vehicle number plate recognition technology which fast tracks vehicle entry and eliminates the need for parking tickets, also reducing environmental impacts.

The car park also has an over-head green and red light system which identifies available bays to car park users with a green light assisting users to more quickly and easily locate an available parking bay.

Available bays are also advertised on electronic signage boards at the entrance within the car park.

To date, the entire redevelopment project has delivered an expansion to the Emergency Department, including a new and much larger administration area, and the establishment of new isolation rooms, a behavioural assessment unit, a new staff room and more staff car parking.

Other projects to be commissioned before mid-2025 include a new Mental Health Unit which is due for completion later this year, a 30-bed medical/surgical ward, additional theatre, a cardiac catheterisation laboratory, refurbished discharge lounge and expanded Central Sterile Supply Department and waste management areas.





New vestibular physio service on offer through Ramsay Health Plus Rockhampton

Physiotherapists from Ramsay Health Plus Rockhampton have recently completed advanced training to offer a new vestibular physio service for patients in Central Queensland.

Vestibular dysfunction, described as the disturbance of the body's balance system, is an area requiring specialised skills to provide diagnosis. Dizziness, vertigo, disequilibrium, nausea and unsteadiness are common symptoms that may result from a problem in the vestibular system.

Physiotherapists from Ramsay Health Plus Rockhampton will be using

vestibular infrared goggles to assist in the diagnosis and treatment for patients with vestibular dysfunction.

The patient wears the set of goggles during assessment and small, fleeting eye movements are recorded to accurately diagnose and manage vestibular and balance conditions.

The recording allows the clinician to

accurately interpret the results and recommend appropriate treatment for the patient.

No referral is required for the new vestibular physio service at Ramsay Health Plus Rockhampton, which is designed to help improve outcomes or patients in our CQLD community. ■■



Ramsay Health Plus Mt Wilga takes out “Outstanding Health Improvement Services” award

The team of allied health professionals at Ramsay Health Plus Mt Wilga has taken out the award for “Outstanding Health Improvement Services” at the 2022 Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Local Business awards.



The Local Business Awards acknowledge outstanding local businesses and their people who go above and beyond.

Mt Wilga Private Hospital Director of Allied Health, Jennifer King, said: “This award is a reflection on the outstanding service that our Allied Health and Support Services staff provide to our patients every day.

“The health care industry has been extremely challenging over the last few years. I am so thankful for the amazing team at Ramsay Health Plus and proud of their resilience and determination to continue to serve their patients and their community.”

Ramsay Health Plus Mt Wilga provides a range of allied health services in one location at Mt Wilga Private Hospital. Ramsay Health Plus's team of allied health professionals provide high quality, personalised care based on scientific evidence. The team helps patients optimise their health and fitness, enhance a safe return to work, return to sport and exercise or transition back into the community after illness or injury.

Ms King thanked the local community for their role in Ramsay Health Plus taking out the award.

“We have wonderful patients, many who have been attending Ramsay Health Plus for many years. Over the past 20 years our business has grown and we now help locals with more than 13,500 appointments each year.”

The first round of the Local Business Awards is voted on by the public. Finalists are then judged against specific criteria and their online presence by a panel of judges. ■■

Armidale Private Hospital celebrates 25 years of helping the local community

Armidale Private Hospital is celebrating 25 years of providing quality private health care services to the community of Armidale and surrounding districts.

Armidale Private Hospital CEO, Debra Maslen, said the hospital has grown significantly since 1998 but it is the people who make the facility exceptional.

“We're passionate about offering the latest technology to the people of Armidale and surrounding regions to reduce the need for patients to have to travel to Sydney or Brisbane to access leading health care services,” Ms Maslen said.

“However, what I'm most proud of is the passionate, skilled and dedicated workforce we have built in the past 25 years.

“To name a few, there is former CEO Mary Single who was at Armidale Private Hospital from the first day of opening until late last year. Mary had a strong belief in teamwork and provided a supportive environment to encourage staff growth.

“Another is Nurse Unit Manager of the Operating Theatres, Kath Latter. Kath has been working as a perioperative nurse since we opened 25 years ago and has been the Nurse Unit Manager for the past five years. Kath is passionate about educating staff to ensure that the patients get the best outcomes possible.

“Another original staff member is Jane Horton, our infection control nurse. Jane provides tremendous knowledge and experience to the hospital and played a vital role in ensuring team and patient safety during the COVID pandemic.

“Lastly, Geraldine Bragg has also been with Armidale Private Hospital since opening. Geraldine is a senior Registered Nurse who consistently demonstrates kindness, compassion and empathy to all the patients and families she cares for.

Armidale Private Hospital opened on 27 January 1998 and has been operated by Ramsay Health Care, Australia's largest private hospital operator, since 2005. ■■



Ramsay Health Care expands its pharmacy support for Gold Coast communities

Ramsay Health Care is expanding the services it offers to Gold Coast locals, opening its 61st Ramsay Pharmacy in Burleigh.

The new full-service, community pharmacy will offer expert pharmacist advice, medication checks, vaccinations and personalised compounded medications for adults and children.

The pharmacy also offers an extensive range of supplies for many health, medical and first aid needs including a large range of independent living aids.

Ramsay Pharmacy CEO, Greg Kennedy, said:

“We’re excited to be offering the Gold Coast community another source of safe and trusted care and advice.”

“Our expert pharmacists can help with a range of concerns including coughs, colds, vitamins, basic wound care, pre-conception needs, pregnancy and children’s health.

“The team can also assist with government-funded medication checks, offering advice on minimising possible side effects and interactions for those taking multiple medications.”

The new Ramsay Pharmacy is located at shop 7B, 197-207 Reedy Creek Rd, Burleigh Waters in the new ‘Medical on Burleigh’ site.

‘Medical on Burleigh’ features on-site parking and medical providers including radiology, pathology and a new GP clinic.



Ramsay Pharmacy and Ramsay Connect launch new benefits for HCF members



Ramsay Pharmacy is making health care more affordable for even more Australians, announcing a new discount offer available in all of its franchised community pharmacies nationwide.

The new discount program offers a five per cent discount in store for HCF members who sign up to the better rewards program*.

Ramsay Pharmacy CEO, Greg Kennedy, said Ramsay is committed to making quality health care more accessible and affordable for Australians.

“We are pleased to announce that HCF members who join the better rewards program will get a five per cent discount on eligible products at any of our pharmacies throughout Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria,” Mr Kennedy said.

“This discount will allow many Australians to access more affordable health and medical supplies including discounted over-the-counter basic pain relief, vitamins and probiotics, first aid and a large range of independent living aids.”

“The better rewards program is easy and free to join, and better rewards members get access to exclusive promotions, competitions and earn points towards rewards^.

“While instore our pharmacists can offer expert advice on medication management, vaccination services and all

other health care needs.”

“We’re pleased to partner with HCF to make health care more affordable for many Australians.”

The discount will be available at all Ramsay and Malouf Pharmacies from 30 January 2023.

Ramsay Connect CEO, Ian Galvin, said HCF members can benefit even further, with Ramsay and HCF reaching a new agreement allowing more patients to receive rehabilitation care in the comfort of their own home.

“The new agreement will allow a broad range of patients who’ve had medical or surgical admissions to hospital to complete their rehabilitation or reconditioning at home,” Mr Galvin said.

“We send our specialist care teams to you, instead of you coming to us. As well as being more convenient for patients, it allows them to be in a familiar environment, surrounded by loved ones, while working on their recovery.”

*Excludes pharmacist only medicine (Schedule 3 medicines) and prescription only medicine. Discount applicable off current in store price. Must show HCF membership card to staff and scan better rewards card upon checkout to claim discount. ^Terms and conditions apply, visit www.ramsaypharmacy.com.au/rewards for more information



Artificial Intelligence tackling ear disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Ear disease is a major public health issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in rural and remote Australia, causing devastating life-long impacts.

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Dr Al-Rahim Habib (based at Westmead Private Hospital) and the DrumBeat.ai team (led by Chief Investigator, Associate Professor Narinder Singh, with PhD supervision by Professor Raymond Sacks and Professor Chris Perry) have spent the last four years developing an AI-based tool for rural and remote healthcare workers.

The tool can provide an instantaneous assessment based simply on a photo of an eardrum. The algorithm can determine the type of ear disease and can detect the presence of hearing loss.

"Because specialists are hard to come by in rural and

remote areas, ear assessments are typically reviewed by ENT specialists in metropolitan locations using telehealth. The delays between data capture, data upload, review by a specialist, and action in the field can result in missed opportunities for timely intervention," Dr Habib said.

"Our initial prototype has been developed using over ten thousand eardrum photos collected from over 4,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who live in over 100 rural and remote communities in Queensland and the Northern Territory."

In September 2022, Dr Habib was the winner of the Ramsay Research Month National e-Poster Competition, presented by the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation.

"It's fantastic to present our findings and results to a diverse

audience. We are in the process of designing field trials to evaluate the performance of DrumBeat.ai in real-world settings."

"Integrating AI into daily clinical practice has the potential to revolutionise how we screen for ear disease. It's exciting to envision a future where we can triage children quickly with an accurate and reliable AI smartphone app."

If you would like to learn more or collaborate with the team, please visit <https://www.drumbeat.ai/>

\$32 million in research funding requested from the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation

The Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation has received more than 50 submissions during their 2022 Grants Round.



Ramsay Hospital
Research Foundation

A total of \$32,085,817.68 in funding was requested for translational research projects across mental health, cardiology, cancer, artificial intelligence, rehabilitation, orthopaedics, and musculoskeletal injury.

Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation CEO, Ms Nicola Ware, said she had a difficult task ahead to narrow down the applications.

"All the applications were of very high quality – we are excited to progress to the next round. It is fantastic to see the level of interest in research, and we can't wait to share how the projects develop."

The Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation funds high-quality and innovative research that aims to improve patient outcomes and the delivery of healthcare in Australia.

Translational research projects must help break the cycle of disadvantage and improve patient outcomes by addressing specific determinants of health – such as health literacy, social and lifestyle risk factors, knowledge transfer between generations or the effects of climate change on health.

Please email info@rhfr.org.au or visit ramsayhealth.com.au/Ramsay-Research if you have any questions about our grants program.



Ramsay expands clinical trials network in Australia

Ramsay Health Care has expanded its clinical trials network, opening its 17th site at The Avenue Hospital in Victoria.

The Avenue Hospital CEO Lisa McFadden said she was pleased the hospital could offer patients access to clinical trials and expand Ramsay’s growing research capabilities. “Offering the opportunity to participate in clinical trials is just another way The Avenue Hospital is providing comprehensive, quality care to patients,” Ms McFadden said.

“We’re lucky to have some of Victoria’s best clinicians here at The Avenue and its wonderful that their work could help develop medical interventions that could benefit many.”

The Avenue Hospital currently has four clinicians on board to undertake clinical trials in orthopaedics. “Launching with four leading clinicians on board is a great start and we look forward to supporting their important research,” Ms McFadden said. “We’re hoping to have more clinicians on board soon to expand the range of research areas we support.” Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation CEO, Nicola Ware, said: “We’re excited to welcome The Avenue Hospital as our 17th site in the Ramsay Health Care Clinical Trial Network. The work they do will help development new medical interventions that will drive better patient outcomes and healthier communities.” All Ramsay clinical trials operate under an ethical and governance framework that complies with the Australian Code of Research Conduct, Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GHP) and ethical standards.

New appointment to drive expansion of research and improve patient outcomes

Eminent professor of paediatrics and co-founder of the ORIGINS project, Professor Desiree Silva, has been appointed to the inaugural role of Director of Research at Joondalup Health Campus (JHC).

Professor Silva’s appointment will support JHC in its quest to embed research into clinic care as it expands to one of the largest hospitals in Australia. Professor Silva was instrumental in securing the support of the Paul Ramsay Foundation and Australian Government for the ORIGINS Project, a collaboration with Telethon Kids Institute, which has put JHC firmly on the world research stage as it follows 10,000 children from their time in the womb, over a decade to improve child and adult health. “It has been a great privilege to have been supported by JHC in leading the ORIGINS Project which has recruited more than 7,000 families and includes 40 nested sub-projects, and I am so excited for the possibilities that lie ahead as I step into this new role,” Professor Silva said.

“The campus is ideally placed to become a more significant contributor to research and clinical trials in Perth’s northern suburbs, as part of the broader Ramsay Research Unit which plays a leading role in the medical research sector in Australia.”

Professor Silva qualified in the UK and undertook her paediatric specialist training in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. She has a strong interest in child mental health and is an advocate for education and evidence based management of conditions, such as ADHD and autism.



Shepparton Private Hospital brings advanced robotic technology to Goulburn Valley

Shepparton Private Hospital has brought state-of-the-art robotic technology to the Goulburn Valley region for the first time, unveiling a new surgical robot.



Orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Senthil Rengasamy, said the new robotic device is designed to help surgeons perform total knee arthroplasty with increased accuracy, reproducibility and control.

“Patients experiencing painful severe knee arthritis, that is often impacting their quality-of-life, can potentially benefit from undergoing total knee replacement using the robot,” Dr Rengasamy said.

“I have always been cautious in introducing any new and emerging technological advancement, making sure I do so in a careful and considerate manner. The most important potential benefit that we can see with this technology over the previously available methods is that we are able to more accurately set the bone resection, we can assess the soft tissue balance intraoperatively, predict the joint gaps and personalize the measured values to individual knee pathologies.”

Dr Rengasamy said having the new technology available at Shepparton Private Hospital was a big win for local patients.

“Regional living should not come at a disadvantage for the community in relation to accessing emerging, cutting-edge medical advancements,” he said.

“Typically, patients having knee replacement would stay for an average 3-5 days, and being able to spend this time at their local private hospital, close to home, allows for better support through their social network.

“It also makes it much easier for patients when the frequent trips to see the surgeon in the postoperative period can be done locally.

“It is a great feeling to have been part of the team to introduce this technology in our region.”

Shepparton Private Hospital CEO, Rhys Jones, said: “Shepparton Private Hospital is committed to investing in technology that enhances patient experience and outcomes. We’re proud to be able to provide this incredible technology for our patients.”



The Southport Private Hospital speech pathologists undergo intensive training to offer new service for patients

The Southport Private Hospital is now offering a new service to patients with the launch of its new FEES service.

FEES - Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing – allows trained speech pathologists to evaluate the swallowing function of patients using a scope inserted via the nose.

Allied Health Manager, Helen Slaughter, said offering FEES at The Southport Private Hospital is a big win for patients who previously had to go off site for the procedure.

“It is my absolute delight to report that both Katie Braun van Burck and Quinn Lambert have now completed all aspects of their advanced competency assessment and are both FEES accredited practitioners. They achieved final sign off after three months of intensive supervised training and study. This means they are now both able to independently carry out and report FEES assessments,” Ms Slaughter said.

St George Private Hospital surgeon helps draft new international bariatric surgery guidelines

St George Private Hospital Consulting Bariatric Surgeon, Dr Ken Loi, has played an important role in re-writing the international weight loss surgery guidelines, more than 30 years since they were last updated.

The bariatric surgery guidelines act as clinical guides on the identification, evaluation and treatment of overweight and obesity in adults.

Dr Loi said he was part of a group of 24 surgeons from around the world who worked together to update the guidelines.

“I worked with many active surgeons and physicians from all over the world with a lot of experience in academics,” Dr Loi said.

“We examined the benefits and risks of surgery and amended the criteria to suggest surgery was suitable for those with a BMI of 35, down from 40, or a BMI of 30-35 for those with metabolic disease.

“This update also includes indications and safety information regarding obesity surgery for the older and adolescent populations, and gives evidence on how it can be used as a bridging procedure for those requiring other procedures including joint replacement, hernia surgery and organ transplants.”



Frances Perry House unveils Victorian-first robotic technology

Victorian women now have access to advanced robotic technology for gynaecological surgeries with leading women’s health hospital, Frances Perry House, unveiling the state’s first CMR Versius Robotic System.

The Versius System is designed to allow specialists to perform minimally invasive gynaecological and urogynaecological surgical procedures with heightened precision and to offer patients faster recovery times, less time in hospital and a reduced risk of infection. Frances Perry House Gynaecologist, Dr Alex Ades said the robot can allow trained surgeons “more precision, more control and more comfort” during surgery.

While patients can still opt to have surgery laparoscopically, he said the robot is designed to offer patients “less pain, quicker recovery and a prompter return to work.”

Frances Perry House CEO, Shaune Gillespie, said with the addition of the Versius Robot and a new, fourth operating theatre, Frances Perry can now offer even more Victorian women access to leading, dedicated women’s health care services.

“As a specialist women’s health care facility, we’re excited to be able to offer Victorian women access to leading robotic technology to perform minimally invasive gynaecological and urogynaecological surgical procedures,” Mr Gillespie said.

“We are passionate about providing high quality care and better outcomes for our patients; the introduction of Versius combined with the development of our fourth theatre earlier in the year represents an exciting time for the Frances Perry team. ■■



Greenslopes Private Hospital surgeon takes part in 36 hours of live surgery

Shoulder surgeons around the world have had the opportunity to benefit from watching the skills of a leading Greenslopes Private Hospital orthopaedic surgeon in action, with Professor (Adj) Ashish Gupta taking part in the Global 36-hour Live Shoulder Surgery “East Meets West” Course.

East Meets West is a 36-hour nonstop surgery event featuring 35 shoulder surgeries performed by leading surgeons from 19 countries. This course was streamed live online around the world.

Professor Gupta co-chaired this event from the East, with Dr. Jean Kany in Toulouse from the West, both at Ramsay hospitals.

Professor Gupta performed his surgery on 14 October at 8am local time, viewed by more than 1,200 organisations across the globe.

“I am proud to be involved in this event. It is a great opportunity to share

my technique on a complex shoulder instability case and to show how mixed reality can significantly assist surgeons to become more accurate with their surgeries,” Professor Gupta said.

“I enjoyed the chance to watch advanced surgical techniques from other experts around the world. It’s interesting to see how surgeons are innovating and pushing the boundaries in other countries, and how we all strive to provide better outcomes for our patients. More importantly, the high-level discussions with the experts themselves were extremely unparalleled.”

Professor Gupta was coordinating the East in the event, performing a humeral allograft and latarjet for bipolar bone loss for chronic shoulder instability using mixed reality planning by Akunah. Other surgeries included advances in total shoulder arthroplasty, rotator cuff repair, superior capsular reconstruction, robotic tendon transfers, and instability procedures.

This is not the first time Professor Gupta has shared his skills with others for the benefit of surgeons around the world, having supervised many international surgeons awarded fellowships from the Australian Shoulder Research Institute (ASRI). ■■

Baringa Private Hospital installs new ROSA orthopaedic robot

Baringa Private Hospital is pleased to be able to offer patients and surgeons access to a new robotic surgical system.

The ROSA robot is now available for patients having knee replacement surgery, with many orthopedic surgeons taking up the opportunity to be trained in its use.

The surgical system acts as an assistant in the operating theatre, allowing surgeons to plan pre-operatively in 3D where to place the implant, which can enhance precision and accuracy.

Almost 100 procedures have been performed so far using this technology at Baringa Private Hospital.

Perioperative Services Manager Shannon Webber said: “The new RoSA has been enthusiastically embraced by our team of orthopaedic surgeons. We are always keen to experiment with new technology to offer patients access to a range of treatment options to suit their preferences and needs.” ■■





Milestone surgery for Lake Macquarie Private Hospital

The team at Lake Macquarie Private Hospital is celebrating its 8,888th cardiac surgery.

Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Dr Allen James, who was working at the hospital for the very first case 28 years ago, said he was proud the team helped thousands of Hunter locals with potentially life-saving heart surgeries.

“It’s a privilege to be able to help people in this way,” Dr James said.

“I love to see people get through really complex operations and have improved quality of life and length of life.”

Dr James said Lake Macquarie Private Hospital was lucky to have an experienced, dedicated team working in the cardiothoracic specialty including Dr Mejia and Dr Singh, as well as the nurses, anaesthetists and support staff.

“I love being part of a strong, supportive team,” he said.

“Some of the people I work with were juniors when I started at the hospital in the 1990s and are still working with us after all those years.

“The continuity among theatre, ICU, the ward is excellent which gives a great patient experience.”

One thing that has changed however, are the types of surgeries the team has been able to offer to patients in the Hunter Region.

“We do a much greater complexity of cases now. When the unit first started we did primarily bypass surgery. Now we do a lot of valve surgeries including valve repairs and aortic surgery, complex re-do heart surgery and in addition to our heart surgery, a large amount of thoracic surgery.”



More than 300 procedures in first year of Illawarra cardiac services

Wollongong Private Hospital has celebrated one year of providing cardiothoracic surgery services to residents in the Illawarra region, announcing the team had performed 289 potentially lifesaving cardiac procedures and 39 thoracic procedures in the first 12 months of the service.

The cardiac surgery service is part of a Public Private Partnership between Wollongong Private Hospital and the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD).

Wollongong Private Hospital CEO, Steven Rajcany, said he was proud the hospital could provide such an important service to local residents.

“We are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life for those in our community, and I’m extremely proud we are now able to provide complex Cardiothoracic procedures here in Wollongong,” Mr Rajcany said.

“Previously, Illawarra locals would have needed to travel to Sydney for

these kinds of treatments.”

Heart disease remains the largest single cause of death in Australia. Someone working to help those with cardiac disease is Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Dr Mohammad Azari – one of two Cardiothoracic surgeons working at Wollongong Private.

Dr Azari performed the first cardiac surgery at Wollongong Private Hospital in September 2021.

“We have assembled a great team of very experienced professionals from anaesthetists to theatre nurses, as well as ICU and ward staff and allied health teams,” Dr Azari said.

“We also offer ongoing training and upskilling to ensure a high level of reliable service locally and all of the equipment and instruments purchased are state-of-the-art.

“We’ve performed a large number of cardiac surgeries including coronary surgeries, valve operations, aortic surgeries and redo operations and more recently the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation is on offer locally thanks to the local structural heart team.

“We’ve been able to help Illawarra locals with their cardiac health needs from diagnosis to treatment and recovery.”

Peninsula Private Hospital welcomes Victorian-first procedure to help patients with atrial fibrillation

Peninsula Private Hospital is offering Australians suffering from atrial fibrillation – the most common type of irregular heartbeat – access to two new procedures designed to effectively treat the chronic heart condition.

Peninsula Private recently became the first hospital in the country to offer Totally Thoracoscopic Maze (TTM). Now, the hospital is set to introduce the Convergent Cardiac Procedure, which also targets atrial fibrillation, for the first time in Victoria.

It is estimated that more than half a million Australians suffer from atrial fibrillation, which if left untreated can lead to stroke or heart failure.

Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Dr Adrian Pick, said these procedures were a new alternative for approximately 50 per cent of atrial fibrillation sufferers who were previously told their condition was untreatable.

“Patients with atrial fibrillation who are not suitable for surgery are treated with anti-arrhythmic and anti-coagulation medications, both of which carry with them considerable potential side effects,” Dr Pick said.

“These new “hybrid” procedures use a minimally invasive approach, as opposed to open surgery. Via the small incisions, targeted heat called radio frequency ablation is used to create lesions across the pulmonary veins together with either interconnecting roof and floor lines or ablation of the entire posterior wall of the left atrium. The left auricular appendage of the heart is then clamped with special device called an Atriclip.

“The procedure is designed to eliminate abnormal electrical impulses and restore the patient to sinus rhythm.”

Dr Pick has been refining techniques for minimally invasive Aortic, Mitral and Thoracic surgery for more than 20 years.

Peninsula Private Hospital CEO Michelle Henderson said she was proud the hospital could bring these leading procedures to Victoria.

“These procedures are increasingly being used in the northern hemisphere to treat atrial fibrillation, and we’re pleased to be able to offer them here at Peninsula Private Hospital,” Ms Henderson said.



Australia Day 2023 Honours List

The Australia Day 2023 Honours List recognises and celebrates 1,047 recipients for their meritorious, distinguished and conspicuous service.

Ramsay Health Care congratulates its employees and visiting medical officers (VMOs) who have been recognised on this year’s Honours List including:

- **Dr Raymond Cook** from North Shore Private Hospital who has been awarded a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to medicine as a neurosurgeon.
- **Professor Gemma Figtree** from North Shore Private Hospital who has been named a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to medicine in the field of cardiology.
- **Dr Vernon Moo** from Greenslopes Private Hospital who has been awarded a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to medicine as an anaesthetist.



New investment to strengthen early years for children



Image courtesy of Children's Ground

The Paul Ramsay Foundation (PRF) and the Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) have announced the first recipients of grants in PRF's Strengthening Early Years, a program which aims to support families and children to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive upon school entry.

Community programs and organisations working with families with children in the prenatal to two-year-old age range are set to grow their impact after being awarded funding in the new program.

Strengthening Early Years focuses on the critical importance of the developmental period between conception and age two. Equally, it aims to ensure that parents are well supported to flourish during the early years of their child's life.

Drawn from across the country, 18 promising projects targeting young children and families will share in \$8.6 million in funding. The group includes culturally appropriate

antenatal programs, support for mothers and children escaping domestic and family violence, First Nations focused playgroups, as well as programs focused on building resources, workforce knowledge and capability.

PRF's Head of Early Childhood and program lead Hannah Barber said the successful organisations were all dedicated to supporting parents, caregivers and children experiencing disadvantage in the first one-thousand days of a child's life.

"Ensuring that parents and caregivers have what they need to feel supported in the challenging early days of

a child's life is critical to establishing future pathways for the child's health and development," she said.

"We were impressed by the range of innovative approaches within these programs designed to strengthen relationships between parents or caregivers and children, which we know is extremely important." ■■

Open grants to help end domestic and family violence

The Paul Ramsay Foundation (PRF) and the Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) have announced a Specialist DFV Programs National Open Grant Round.

Australian organisations were invited to submit an application by 23 February 2023 for a one-off grant of up to \$250,000 to support the delivery of an existing specialist DFV program(s).

Programs must have a primary focus on one or more of the following cohorts:

- Victim survivor cohorts among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, LGBTQIA+ people, migrant and refugee women, pregnant women, rural and remote communities, single mothers and/or women living with disability
- Children and young people
- Perpetrators and users of violence

Grant recipients will also join a new network of specialist organisations with expertise in the prevention and mitigation of violence for key communities. PRF will consult with this network of partners to share insights and learnings, build relationships, and inform its future work to help tackle DFV in Australia.

PRF's Head of Cohorts Jackie Ruddock said the grants were an opportunity for specialist programs to expand their reach and achieve greater impact, including by reinstating established programs which may have been put on hold during the pandemic due to lack of funding.

"Domestic and family violence programs, like many other community services, are facing high demand at a time when resources are severely stretched or close to collapse from systemic underfunding," Ms Ruddock said.

"We recognise that there are many organisations in Australia already working to end violence and address its consequences, often under extreme financial pressure. We hope this grant round will alleviate these pressures and strengthen our relationships with organisations doing critical work to target DFV, enabling PRF to better understand and invest in these programs.

"We are also excited to develop a network among these specialist organisations to foster greater understanding and collaboration within the sector."

Since 2017, PRF has granted more than \$38 million to organisations improving the safety of women and children experiencing DFV. PRF previously partnered with ACF to distribute \$3 million in targeted relief for women's shelters and refuges across Australia in 2020 and 2021.

This investment addressed the capacity needs of specialist organisations providing crisis services to communities doubly affected by DFV and the Covid-19 pandemic. ■■

Movements and Appointments

BREE BROWN

has been appointed as the Director of Clinical Services of Port Macquarie Private Hospital and Coolenberg Day Surgery following the retirement of Jennifer Freeland. Bree has a strong theatre background having held various leadership roles within the theatre department. Bree took an active role in the Port Macquarie theatre development in 2015 and has been instrumental in its success. Bree commenced with the hospital in 1998 as a new graduate registered nurse, and has recently finished a Graduate Certificate in Health Service Management (Safety & Quality).

DR JAMES CAFARO

has been appointed to the Director of Medical Services position at Greenslopes Private Hospital. James is a South Australian-trained General Practitioner, who alongside his GP work has been the Deputy Director/ Acting Director of Clinical Training Southern Adelaide Local Health Network, and a senior lecturer at Flinders University. More recently, James has been in the role of Director of Medical Services - Calvary Medibank Joint Venture where he reported directly to the board of directors and was responsible for the recruitments and governance of the specialist medical workforce.

TRACEY CLARK

has been appointed to the position of Director of Clinical Services of Pindara Private Hospital. Tracey has been acting in this position since July; her substantive position has been Assistant Director of Clinical Services (ADOCS) – Perioperative. Tracey has held various roles at Pindara since 2007 and has always shown a deep commitment to her team, doctors, and patient outcomes. She was also part of Ramsay’s first cohort of the Nurse Leaders of Tomorrow program.

LOUISE CUBIS

has been appointed as the Director of Clinical Services at North Shore Private Hospital. Louise has previously been one of the Assistant Directors of Clinical Services at North Shore, a role she has held since 2019. Louise has been a Ramsay employee for 26 years; prior to joining North Shore Private in 2018 as the Quality and Education Manager, Louise held numerous positions at Strathfield Private Hospital and covered the Director of Clinical Services role on numerous occasions over five years. At Strathfield Louise has also held positions of Senior Nurse Educator, After Hours Manager and an ICU Registered Nurse.

EMILY FINLEY

has been appointed as the new Director of Clinical Services at Greenslopes Private Hospital. Emily comes to Ramsay from Queensland Health where she has had numerous roles across hospitals and the department since 1995. Emily has an operating theatre background and has worked as an Assistant Director of Clinical Services in patient flow and more recently as the Acting Executive Director of Contract Performance Management. Along with her nursing background, Emily also has a Masters in Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Peri-Op Nursing and a Graduate Certificate in Health Science - Health Innovation and Redesign.

SHAUNE GILLESPIE

has been appointed to the position of CEO of the Northern Private Hospital, Ramsay Health Care’s greenfield development in Epping due to open in February 2024. Shaune has been working in executive healthcare roles for the last 18 years, joining Ramsay in 2019 as the CEO

/ DCS at Frances Perry House. Prior to this, Shaune worked as CEO at St Vincent’s Private in Melbourne and Calvary John James in Canberra. Throughout his career, Shaune has delivered exceptional results in delivering new business, most recently with the expansion of theatre capacity at Frances Perry House. Shaune has undertaken a number of brownfield developments throughout his career, and was also an integral part of the team responsible for delivering the greenfield site at Calvary Bruce Private Hospital. Shaune will continue in his current role as CEO at Frances Perry House, with a transition to full time at Northern Private in 2023.

MICHAEL GOULDING

has been appointed as the Director of Finance and Support Services at Nambour Selangor Private Hospital and Noosa Hospital. Michael has more than 20 years’ experience managing financial and corporate services. He began his career in England then moved to Australia in 2004 where he worked for Affinity Health and Ramsay Health Care before relocating to Brisbane where he was Corporate Services Manager for St Vincent’s Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital. Most recently, Michael has been living with his family on the Sunshine Coast working as a CFO/ Corporate Services Manager for Community Services.

SUSAN JARNASON

has been appointed as the new Director of Clinical Services of Ramsay Clinic Thirroul, a women’s only mental health facility which was officially opened in November 2022. Susan has extensive experience in the public sector in various high level leadership roles in mental health. She is passionate about trauma-informed care and providing an exceptional service to women with trauma.

MICHAEL LEWCZUK

has been appointed to the position of CEO at St Andrew’s Ipswich Private Hospital. Michael joins Ramsay with an extensive healthcare background, both in nursing and management roles. Most recently, Michael has held the role of Chief Operating Officer of the Wide Bay Hospital & Health Service. Prior to that, Michael was the Executive Director of Ipswich Hospital where he worked very closely with the St Andrew’s team throughout the beginning of the COVID pandemic and led the delivery of clinical services within Ipswich Hospital.

LEE-ANNE MACDONALD

has been appointed to the position of Director of Finance and Administration at Westmead Private Hospital. Lee-Anne joins Ramsay from Mater Health in Brisbane where she was the Director of Health Operational Performance. Other prior positions include Executive Manager of Corporate Services at St Vincent’s Private Northside and Group Financial Accountant St Vincent’s head office. Lee-Anne holds a Bachelor of Commerce, Financial Accounting and Information Systems, a Graduate Diploma in Accounting and is a Chartered Accountant.

SIMON McDERMOTT

has been appointed as the Director of Clinical Services at Figtree Private Hospital. Simon has most recently been one of the Operational Managers at Wollongong Private Hospital. He has more than 24 years of experience as a clinician and manager, having worked in various locations and settings in Australia and overseas. Recently, Simon supported Southern Highlands Private Hospital as the Acting Director of Clinical Services.

PETER NEWMAN

has been appointed to the position of Director of Clinical Services at The Border Cancer Hospital. Prior to Ramsay, Peter held senior roles as Quality and Risk Manager at St Vincent’s in Brisbane and Nurse Director at Medivac Flights. Peter started as a Nursing Unit Manager at Albury Wodonga Private Hospital in 2020. Since commencing, Peter spent three months supporting Shepparton Private Hospital, and has held the acting ADCS role across The Border Network with a focus on The Border Cancer Hospital. Peter holds a Masters in Health Management and completed Ramsay’s Nurse Leaders Of Tomorrow program earlier this year.

JOANNE OXBROW

has been appointed to the role of Director of Clinical Services at Linacre Private Hospital. Jo was previously the Perioperative Services Manager at Peninsula Private Hospital. Prior to this, Jo was the Director of Clinical Services at Yarram and District Health Service and the National Accountability Clinical Procurement Manager at St John of God Healthcare. She has a Graduate Diploma of Nursing, Graduate Certificate in Peri-Operating Nursing, Anaesthetic and Recovery Room Nursing Care and a Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing, Plastic Surgery and Trauma.

WARREN RIVETT

has been appointed to the Deputy CEO role for the Bayside Network, comprising of Peninsula, Beleura and Linacre Private Hospitals in Victoria. Warren joined Ramsay six years ago as the Director of Clinical Services at Linacre Private Hospital, before transitioning to the Director of Clinical Services at Peninsula Private Hospital. Warren has extensive experience in dealing with complex operational issues, achieving and aligning clinical and commercial objectives, and assisting in meeting the strategic goals of the organisation. Having overseen significant developments at both Linacre and Peninsula, Warren brings a track record of success in business growth initiatives alongside his clinical skillset and Masters in Health Management.

BRENDAN TAI-ROCHE

has been appointed to the position of CEO Nowra Private Hospital from 20 February 2023. Brendan has previously worked for Ramsay at Wollongong Private Hospital in 2016 in the role of Operations Manager. His prior experience also includes Regional Health Service Manager in WA, Nurse Unit Manager for Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD, Learning & Development Co-ordinator in Calvary Health Care and, most recently, Academic Staff Member/Education Co-ordinator at Charles Sturt University. Brendan’s qualifications include Bachelor Nursing, and a Masters of Public Health.

STEPHEN WIGMORE

has been appointed to the role of CEO of Kareena Private Hospital and Ramsay Surgical Centre Miranda. Stephen began his career with Ramsay Health Care in 2013 when he joined our corporate office. In 2015, he moved onto the role of Director of Finance and Administration at Westmead Private Hospital where he managed many of the non-clinical departments as well as the commercial areas. Stephen has been heavily involved in the success of a significant expansion plan at Westmead has been actively engaged with the MAC and credentialled VMOs in daily and strategic operations.

Cairns Private Hospital welcomes new AOA President as Medical Director

New President of the Australian Orthopaedic Association and regional health care advocate, Associate Professor Chris Morrey, has been appointed as Medical Director at Cairns Private Hospital.



A/Prof Morrey, who has been working as an orthopaedic surgeon at the hospital for more than 20 years, said he was eager to get started in his new role.

“Cairns Private hospital is a great place to work. We’ve got a good crew, we’ve got a very good culture and very good teaching program. We have a hospital that people want to work in,” A/Prof Morrey said.

“But we’ve been through a lot in recent years, between COVID and the resulting workforce shortages.

“I thought that my experience and being a member of the local medical committee would make me a good person for the job of Medical Director. I want to use my medical training and experience to be the liaison between the hospital and local surgeons and specialists so together we can show the people of Cairns and surrounding areas that we have a leading, tertiary-led service right here that people don’t need to travel far to access.”

A/Prof Morrey is a passionate advocate for regional areas, having completed fellowships in the UK and Italy and travelled the world teaching, but he’s always happy to return home to Cairns.

“I’ve spent 20 years travelling the world teaching other doctors about orthopaedic trauma techniques, but I really want to show younger doctors the benefits of working in regional areas.

“I want to show them that in a regional area they can achieve what they want to achieve in their professional careers while still having a pleasant personal and family life. One of the benefits I love about Cairns is there’s not a lot of traffic or travel from home to the hospital.”

A/Prof Morrey plans to promote the benefits of working regionally in his new role as President of the Australian Orthopaedics Association (AOA). Associate Professor Morrey was sworn in as President in the same week he was appointed as Cairns Private Hospital’s Medical Director.

A/Prof Morrey has worked with a colleague in Cairns, Dr Arvind Puri, and the Queensland branch of the AOA to establish a Far North Queensland rotating orthopaedics training program which is kicking off in 2023. The program will see orthopaedics trainees from Brisbane spend two years working between Cairns and another regional town before returning to Brisbane to finalise their training.

“I’m a big advocate for regional health care and want to encourage more people to come and train in the area.

Cairns Private Hospital CEO, Ben Tooth, said local doctors, patients and medical students will all benefit from A/Prof Morrey taking the role as Medical Director at Cairns Private Hospital.

“Associate Professor Morrey brings excellent experience and knowledge to the role of Medical Director at Cairns Private Hospital and I’m looking forward to working closely with him,” Mr Tooth said.

“As a passionate advocate for regional health care, I know he will work diligently to ensure the best outcomes and experiences for our patients.” ■■

North Shore Private Hospital thanks two long-standing doctors entering retirement

When North Shore Private Hospital opened its doors in 1998, Professor Rod Baber and Dr Robert Ford were among some of the first obstetricians/gynaecologists to be credentialled.

Since that time, they have both been O&G Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) representatives and strong advocates for North Shore Private Hospital.

Professor Baber has held the Patient Care Review Committee Chair role and has been the North Shore Private MAC Chair during his time at the hospital. He has also assisted Ramsay by sitting on review committees and providing expert guidance. Dr Ford is also a former MAC Chair.

Both Prof Baber and Dr Ford have been strong patient care advocates and worked with their midwifery, nursing and medical colleagues to create a collegial approach both within the O&G specialty and across different specialties.

North Shore Private celebrated both doctors’ retirements at the MAC Christmas Party in December, awarding them Consultant Emeritus status. ■■



Mitcham Maternity's modern makeover

The maternity ward and postnatal rooms at Mitcham Private Hospital have recently been refurbished, with the spaces now more welcoming than ever before.

The new designs feature native Australian flora with soft pink and green accents, light timber and soft lighting.

Mitcham Private Hospital CEO, Maree Mendola, said the space was a beautiful place for families to spend their first few days together.

“The Mitcham Maternity Unit was in need of an update and modernisation. The intention of the new design was to create a homely environment for our families that was light and bright and provided a feeling of tranquillity,” Ms Mendola said.

“The feedback from our families, midwives and doctors since the completion of the refurbishment has been wonderful, helping us to feel confident that we have met the brief we set out to achieve.”



Innovative maternity technology used at Joondalup Health Campus helps mothers in war-torn Ukraine

An innovative approach to remote maternity care successfully trialled at Joondalup Health Campus is benefiting patients well beyond Perth's northern suburbs, with the technology now being used in war-torn Ukraine.



HeraBEAT monitors, developed by Israeli based medical technology company HeraMED, are hand-held devices that measure the unborn baby's heartbeat with hospital grade precision, sharing the results with Joondalup Health Campus maternity staff in real-time via HeraCARE, a remote maternity monitoring platform.

HeraCARE also records the mother's physical and mental health capturing vitals, including blood pressure, urine, mood, COVID-19 symptoms, vaccination status and more.

The technology features education modules as well as telehealth communication tools and automatic alerts, which immediately notify the patient and medical staff if a measurement falls outside the normal range, providing advice on what to do next.

The technology also has advanced analytic tools assessing patient information and predicting adverse health outcomes, such as preterm delivery, pre-eclampsia, the likelihood of emergency caesarean section and pre or postnatal depression risks.

Joondalup Health Campus Deputy Director of Medical Services and Obstetrician Dr Cliff Neppe said the technology was shaking up maternity care, describing it as “the new frontier for maternity services”.

“Having previously proved the efficacy of this cutting-edge technology in a pilot study, Joondalup Health Campus has become the first hospital in the world to implement a new hybrid model of care

where we are combining face-to-face antenatal consults with telehealth antenatal consults using the new platform,” Dr Neppe said.

“It means that women and their unborn babies can be monitored from the safety and comfort of their homes with the same accuracy and precision as being in hospital, but with half the hospital visits.

“It is incredibly exciting and supports maternity services and health systems around the world, which are faced with challenges including a shortage of maternity professionals, COVID-19, even war, as is the case in Ukraine.”

Dr Neppe said in the past he has been wary of remote monitoring devices, however, his hands on use of HeraBEAT and HeraCARE have confirmed that this technology is both accurate and reliable and more than 90 percent of trial participants said they enjoyed taking the measurements remotely.

“Of course, it is optional and some women may prefer to attend in person, but many are choosing to reduce hospital visits and use this new model,” he said.

Dr Neppe said in his experience, women were also more engaged using the new hybrid model of care and that it was ideal for today's digitally savvy maternity patients.

“Last financial year, Joondalup Health Campus delivered about 3,400 babies, and we estimate about 90 per cent of our maternity patients will use this platform moving forward.”

Shepparton Private Hospital helps community during Victorian floods

Health workers at Shepparton Private Hospital rallied together to keep the facility open for patients during a severe flood event in October 2022, despite many of them being affected in some way.

As the Goulburn River peaked, Shepparton Private Hospital CEO, Rhys Jones, said he was proud of how his team was coming together to help each other and the community.

“We have an amazing team of health workers at Shepparton Private Hospital who provided incredible support and worked double shifts to keep our hospital open during the flood. This is allowing us to continue to care for patients requiring vital treatment,” Mr Jones said.

“I would especially like to acknowledge our senior nurse unit manager Emma who put her three children in a car north with their Dad so she could come in to the hospital to assist.

“When floodwaters cut off her property, she managed to hitch a ride out with a local in a 4WD who then dropped her at the hospital.

“Martlie, our Director of Clinical Services, was working and sleeping at the hospital after receiving an order to evacuate her property.

“On a personal note, I am grateful to my neighbours who looked after my dog after my home lost power and was cut-off. Working and sleeping at the hospital allowed Martlie, Emma and I to respond quickly to the situation in order to keep our patients and staff safe.”





Ramsay ramps up sustainable healthcare

A global net zero pledge, a major solar roll-out and removing millions of single-use plastics are just a few achievements in a milestone year of sustainability action at Ramsay Health Care Australia.

Ramsay's 2022 Impact Report shows how the leading health care provider has been working to make the world a better place by supporting healthier people, stronger communities and a thriving planet.

Ramsay Health Care Australia CEO, Carmel Monaghan, said people across Ramsay were excited about making positive changes.

"Healthy people and a healthy business depend on a healthy planet, which is why we are proud to support a wide range of environmental and social initiatives across our hospitals and health care services," Ms Monaghan said.

"For example, our theatres are 'going green' as our doctors look to phase out the more harmful anaesthetic gases and we are recycling or replacing large amounts of plastic consumables.

"Across our global sites, you'll see a wide range of initiatives such as recycling air mattresses for wildlife rescue, repurposing leftover food for biofuel, donating surplus computers to charity and setting up vegetable gardens or insect farms to promote biodiversity.

"No matter where you look, our people are coming up with clever, creative ways of reusing, recycling and reducing our impact on the planet."

Managing Director and CEO Craig McNally said Ramsay also wanted to promote sustainability through its large global supply chain.

"Ramsay has more than 15,000 suppliers across 30 countries and they have a significant carbon footprint, so we are working with them to be more sustainable too," Mr McNally said.

"As a team, we can continue delivering sustainable, world class healthcare for generations to come." ■■

The main image shows a vast field of solar panels stretching towards a bright sun on the horizon, with rays of light filtering through the clouds. Two smaller inset photos are placed on the right side: one shows a hospital building with solar panels installed on its roof, and the other is a close-up of solar panels reflecting the sun's light.

Ramsay generates two million kilowatt hours of solar power

In January 2023, Ramsay Health Care reached another milestone in its commitment to environmental sustainability, surpassing two million kilowatt hours (kWh) of solar energy generated as part of its sustainability program.

The sustainability program is part of Ramsay Health Cares' commitment to fostering healthier people, stronger communities and a thriving planet.

Ramsay Australia National Environment Manager, Sue Panuccio said: "Generating two million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of solar is the equivalent of saving more than 1,600 tonnes of CO2 emissions, or taking 744 new cars off the roads."

"This is a wonderful contribution towards a healthier planet."

Ms Panuccio said as well as generating its own solar power, Ramsay is also taking steps to make its energy usage more environmentally friendly via LED lighting upgrades. ■■

The logo features a green heart shape with a white leaf inside. Below the heart, the word "caring" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, and "for our planet" is written in a smaller, white, lowercase, sans-serif font below it.